

REMARKS

Introduction

- Claims 2-6, 8-17, and 21-23 are now pending in this application.
- Claims 2-6 and 8-17 have been amended.
- Claims 21-23 have been added.
- Claims 1, 7, and 18-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.
- Claims 8-11 are in independent form.

No excess claims fees

It is noted that the amendments presented herein result in no excess claims fees. Nevertheless, if any fee is deemed to be due, please charge that fee to Deposit Account No. 12-0425.

The allowable subject matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since those claims have been so rewritten, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

- Claims 1, 6, 12-14, 16, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0142018 A1 to Lange.
- Claims 1, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,185 to Watanabe.
- Claims 1, 12-16, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,063,531 to Tuttle.
- Claims 2-5 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange.

Cancellation of claims 1, 7, and 18-20 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

Independent claims 8-11 are believed to be in condition for allowance, for the reasons discussed above.

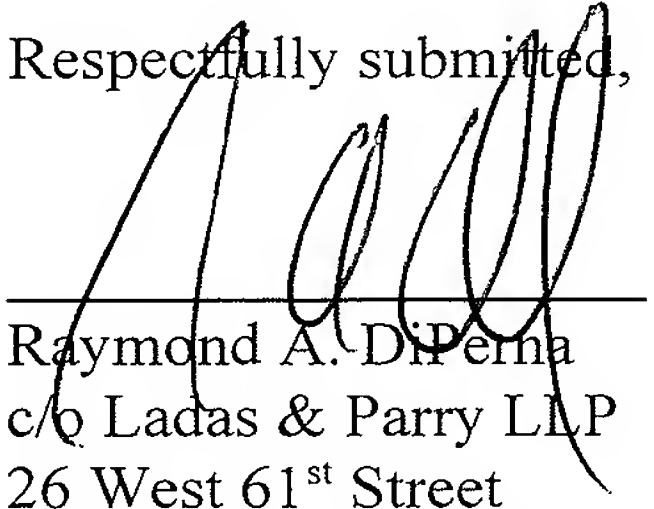
The dependent claims

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims presented herein believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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